Irrigation

Irrigation Conference between the Madras and the Mysore Governments regarding the Palar river.

* 544 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the question of the failure of freshes in the Palar river was discussed in the Conference reported to have taken place recently between the Madras and Mysore Governments;

(*b*) whether the attention of this Conference was drawn to the findings of the Committee of Enquiry appointed by the Madras Legislative Council;

(*c*) the decisions, if any, arrived at; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the proceedings of the Conference?

A.—(*a*) The question that was discussed at the Conference was the supply by Mysore of certain statistics and other information relating to tanks in Mysore territory in the Palar basin.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The decision was that Mysore undertook to examine whether, and to what extent it was possible to supply the information asked for by this Government and if so, at what cost.

(*d*) There are no proceedings of the Conference relating to this matter requiring publication other than the decision referred to in the answer to clause (*c*) above.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know, Sir, why the information called for by the Palar Committee regarding the capacity of certain tanks in the Palar basin has not been furnished?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I have explained before now, and I think it is also explained in the answer to this question, that we have been in correspondence with the Mysore Government regarding the obtaining of the information asked for by the Committee. The Mysore Government have now undertaken to make an examination to see whether the information required can be supplied at a reasonable cost."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether it is not a fact that the attention of the Madras Government has been called to certain encroachments in the capacity and certain improvements in the Mysore territory of the Palar basin and, if so, what answer they have to give to this encroachment?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"Allegations have been made to that effect, but the Mysore Government have not admitted them."

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know what steps the Madras Government have taken to verify the truth or falsity of the allegations made?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"In one case a sepecific allegation was made of encroachment in a tank near Kolar; enquiries were made in that case and the allegations proved to be false."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member has not been called to the fact that even an executive engineer of the Government has drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that one large tank—the Ammankarai tank—has been improved upon to the detriment of the ayacutdars of the Palar basin?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I must ask for notice of the question."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Will the hon. Member consider the seriousness of the situation and the immediate desirability of ascertaining the truth of that allegation?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I have already stated that I require notice of the question relating to the allegation."

Information called for by the Palar Enquiry Committee.

* 545 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the information called for by the enquiry committee with reference to certain tanks in the Palar basin has been furnished by the Mysore Government;

(*b*) when was the information called for; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take to ascertain and collect the information required at least now?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) 27th April 1931 and lastly at the Conference of the 4th September last held at Bangalore.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*c*) of question No. 544.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether during these $2\frac{1}{2}$ years no information has been forthcoming and whether this is a satisfactory state of affairs in the view of the Government?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I have already stated that we have asked for steps to be taken by the Government of Mysore